

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-5 and 7-17 are presently at issue, with Claims 1, 14 and 15 being independent.

Claims 1-5 and 7-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,129,639, hereinafter *DeHority*, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,241,349, hereinafter *Nagasaka*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,925,325, hereinafter *Niikawa*.

Some of the claimed subject matter generally relates to a first operating environment and a second operating environment, and prohibition of printing with prohibited parameters when the printer is in a prohibited operating environment. That is, beginning on the bottom of page one of the present application, it is described that a problem arises when a printer is in an environment where a person is not available to replenish paper or toner and print jobs are received on-line, e.g., during non-business hours. Therefore, according to one embodiment referred to at the bottom of page twenty-two of the present application, a solution entails setting time frames according to business hours and preventing printing with prohibited parameters according to those time frames. That is, printing of an on-line print job with prohibited parameters is prevented when it is outside the time frame set to normal business hours. Subject matter generally along those lines is defined by Claims 1, 14 and 15, in combination with other claimed features.

For example, Claim 1 defines a printing system including a printer that operates in either a first operating environment or a second operating environment

that is different from the first operating environment. The first operating environment is a first time period and the second operating environment is a second time period, the second time period not overlapping with the first time period. Also included in the printing system is a controller that, when a parameter determiner determines that a printing parameter is prohibited and an operating environment determining means detects that the environment is the first operating environment, prohibits processing of a print job using a prohibited print parameter that is issued when the printer is operating in an on-line mode.

DeHority discloses a printer system which compares print job requirements to printer capability. When a mismatch between the print job requirement and the printer capability occurs, the system determines the best alternate match between the size, color, weight and type of paper by determining a mismatch magnitude. In column 3, lines 40-45, *DeHority* describes two modes of operation. The first mode automatically selects an alternative match when a mismatch occurs. The second mode is similar to the first, but adds the step of checking if the determined alternate match is acceptable to the user. Neither mode relates to a time period in which a print job is received.

The Official Action recognizes that *DeHority* does not disclose subject matter directed toward a first operating environment that is a first time period, a second operating environment that is a second time period, and that the second time period does not overlap the first time period, in combination with a controller that, when a parameter determiner determines that a printing parameter is prohibited and an operating environment determining means detects that the environment is the first operating environment, prohibits processing of a print job using a prohibited print

parameter that is issued when the printer is operating in an on-line mode. That is, *DeHority* does not prevent printing based on a time period. For a disclosure of that subject matter, the Official Action relies upon *Nagasaka*. However, as described in detail below, *Nagasaka* does not disclose preventing printing based on a time period, and discloses the opposite, i.e., that printing is available at all times.

Nagasaka discloses an image forming apparatus (fax machine) that has three control modes. The first control mode is for printing and the temperature of the fixed roll 19 is for image forming. The second control mode is called LOW sleep mode and the temperature of the fixed roll 19 is a little bit lower than the first control mode. The third control mode is called OFF sleep mode, and no power is delivered to the fixed roll 19 and the fixed roll 19 has a very low temperature. The purpose of having the three control modes is to save power during times of low use. That is, during the day (8:00 AM to 6:00 PM) the fax is either in the first control mode or the second control mode and power is delivered to the fixed roll 19. However, at other times (6:00 PM to 8:00 AM), no power is delivered to the fixed roll 19. If a print job is received during the first control mode, the printing immediately begins. If a print job is received during the second control mode, sleep control is released and the temperature of the fixed roll is increased, and once the fixed roll 19 reaches the fixing temperature, printing begins. When a print job is received during the third mode (OFF sleep mode) sleep mode is released, the fixed roll 19 is heated, and once a proper temperature of the fixed roll 19 is achieved, printing begins. These processes are described below in more detail.

A diagram of the device is shown in Fig. 3, and corresponding descriptions are provided in columns 4, 5 and 7. The control signals are referred to as FULOW

and FUEN. The FULOW signal turns on the transistor Q2 and changes the potential of point A, and also changes the value to be output to the input of the comparator 29. In other words, the FULOW is output and the temperature of the fixing roll 19 is set to be a temperature which is a little lower than the fixing temperature, i.e., the second control mode known as LOW sleep. On the other hand, if the FUEN signal is outputted to the NAND gate 32, the NAND gate is turned off and the current supply to the heater 31 is stopped. That is, power is cut off from the fixed roll 19. If data is transmitted and received during the LOW sleep mode or the OFF sleep mode, the transmission of the FULOW signal and the FUEN signal are stopped (column 7, lines 18-21). That is, once a print job is received, the second control state and the third control state are both suspended, and the first control state is instated. Once the FULOW and FUEN signals are stopped, the comparator 29 controls the temperature of the fixing roll 19 to be in predetermined temperature (column 7, lines 21-23). As described in column 7, lines 25-26, "[t]his state corresponds to the first control mode". Thus, based on the disclosure in *Nagasaka*, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that at no time is printing prevented, and at no time is printing then prevented based on a time frame.

Niikawa is only relied upon in the Official Action for a teaching that it is well known in the art to provide an on-line mode such that the printer is communicating with a host and a off-line mode such that the printer is not used to communicate with the host, and does not remedy the deficiencies of *Nagasaka* pointed out above.

For the reasons stated above, as relied upon in the Official Action, *DeHority*, *Niikawa*, and *Nagasaka* together do not disclose or suggest at least the claimed

subject matter relating to preventing printing with prohibited parameters according to prohibited time frames, and Claim 1 is therefore allowable.

Claims 14 and 15 are allowable for similar reasons as set forth above with regard to Claim 1.

Claims 2, 7-12, 16 and 17 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims, and also because they define features that additionally define over the cited documents.

Claims 3-5 are rejected as being unpatentable over *DeHority* in view of *Nagasaka* and further in view of *Tang*. *Tang* does not remedy the deficiencies of Claim 1, from which Claims 3-5 depend. Therefore, Claims 3-5 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

For the reasons stated above, it is requested that all the rejections be withdrawn and that this application be allowed in a timely manner.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

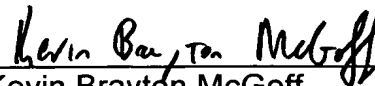
Respectfully submitted,

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